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Mr. Echols: Will you all be seated, please.

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Helms, Admiral Taylor, Ladies and
Bentlemen:

As in former years, it is again my pleasure to welcome you to the Annual Awards Ceremony of the Central Intelligence Agency. As you doubtless know and as your program indicates, this is not really the Annual Awards Ceremony. During the year, honors and awards have been conveyed to many employees at small individual ceremonies. This annual ceremony is dedicated not only to those who have received individual honors but to all Agency employees. It has, as it's special feature, the presentation of service awards to employees who during the year have completed their tenth, fifteenth or twentieth year of service with the Central Intelligence Agency. Since today, the 18th of September, is the anniversary date of our founding, we present today our first twenty-year certificate. Even this presentation, however, is a symbolic one. Due to practical considerations, we cannot, of course, present service certificates to the many hundreds of employees who have earned them. A small group, rather, has been selected to receive their certificates at this ceremony in a symbolic way. They represent the entire group of employees who have earned their certificates and they receive their certificates here in behalf of all the others. For those of you who would otherwise receive certificates today and will not receive them here, will receive their certificates individually from their own office heads at appropriate ceremonies. It is my privilege now to present the Vice President of the United States.

The Vice President:

Director Helms, and Mr. Echols, and Admiral Taylor, and members of the Central Intelligence Agency Staff, if I seemed to be a bit surprised when my name was called here just a moment ago, the truth is, I was. I came into the auditorium on a rather hurried trip from my office and I wasn't just exactly quite clear where I was to appear on the agenda for today and as I was looking over the program for today I thought I wasn't going to appear at all, all of which left me in somewhat of a quandry but a Vice President is supposed to be fleet of foot and a general practitioner in the art of surprises so I was whispering to your Director. I said, "Dick, is this about the time that I'm supposed to be on the program." He said, "I guess so." I wouldn't call that the most positive answer that I have received but at least it gave me some indication it was alright if I would stand and say a word to you. First, let me say that I am very pleased that we, in the very real sense, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Central Intelligence Agency. When you're 20 years of age, you're legal, you've at least passed out of those reckless years of teens, and entering into your maturity. I thought you'd like to know that because there are times when people are not at all sure that any of us have entered into that blessed period of human existence or professional life called maturity but I am confident that the CIA has been in that area of life a long, long time. I'm particularly honored today myself to be included in your program. This Agency is a basic part of the national defense and security structure of this Nation. It is as vital to the well-being of the American people and to the common defense of this Republic as the Department of Defense or as the

Department of State or as indeed the combined sources of the Nation. I must say that of all of the agencies of Government that have developed professional competence, I know of none that has done a better job of it than the Central Intelligence Agency, and I say that as one that has for several years, both in the United States Senate and now as Vice President, called upon your resource people, called upon your experts, called upon your research facilities for information and guidance. When you consider the fact that we've had a Central Intelligence Agency for just one generation, for twenty years, even during the war years, the years during the great war obviously we had our intelligence services, it's nothing short of remarkable that we had developed in this Nation the competence, the professional competence that is exemplified by the men and women in this auditorium today and by the Director of this Agency and his top echelon staff. I salute you for it. You cannot expect in a free society to be immune from criticism, but as more I'm glad you're being criticized occasionally; it relieves me, and, my, what it can do to help the President who has more than his fair share. We like to share these dubious honors with you but remember that if you weren't being criticized you wouldn't be doing anything. The only people who are not criticized are those that are either so silent that they are competing with death itself or those that are doing nothing and while you are required in a sense by law to maintain a polite and detached silence insofar as your pronouncements are concerned you are doing something. And what you're doing is of vital importance. I underscore it. Vital importance. I want you to know that some of us in Government do appreciate this and what is more, the American people appreciate it. The American people feel better because there

is a CIA. The American people know we need the Central Intelligence Agency. Some of our critics may not be so sure of it but in the long run, as Theodore Roosevelt once said, "You can test the common sense and the good judgment of the majority of the American people over and beyond that of any selected self-appointed minority. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't believe in elective office. But, truthfully, there is a basic intelligence in our community that supports the intelligence operations of the Government of the United States. I haven't any particularly prepared remarks for you except to express my appreciation and the appreciation of your President for your service beyond the call of duty, that your President represents your Nation and that Nation expresses it's appreciation for your work. You've been learning as you have been doing. We've been expanding and improving our facilities as we have put them to the test. We have gained a much broader knowledge of the world because of you in this great Agency and I believe that the world is a better place for the people of this earth because there has been, is, and will continue to be a Central Intelligence Agency. Our only objective is to try to make a world of law and order in which there is social justice. I sometimes think Americans forget what their objectives are as individuals and as a people and a Nation in the hub-bub and in the busy-ness of everyday life. We ought never to forget those lofty ideals and those high objectives.. To forget them is to lose the meaning of our daily work. We have stated them many, many times. The highest objective of any people worthy of being called children of God is the objective of a peace, a peaceful world, and despite the fact that our country has been called upon to stand guard at many a rampart,

and even now finds its men in battle, I am one of those people in this country and I am sure you are, that can proudly say and honestly say that this Nation of which we are citizens has done more for the cause of peace and social justice and freedom in this world than any other Nation, or at least as much as any other Nation throughout the history of civilization. And I don't think we ought to walk away from that high honor and that worthy objective just because some people are momentarily, are critics. We have given generously without seeking special privilege. We are fulfilling the burdens of leadership without many of its privileges. We understand that leadership imposes responsibility. And we understand that responsibility gives very little luxury or special privilege. And now if we can have a continuing understanding of that role of our Nation, then I believe that we will really merit the title of leader. I hope that each and everyone of you will continue to do your good work as you have, try to improve the quality of your activities, your research, your findings, your purpose and your professional life. I think we all know that we can do better than we have. I know I can and I'm sure you feel that you can. And the story of America is the story of individuals and generations each saying that they can do better than the day before or the week before. It's the story of a Nation that said it could do the impossible and many people think that what we're trying to do now is impossible, to maintain our commitments abroad and to try to build the foundation of a better America and a great society at home. I don't think it's impossible at all. And sometimes I weary a bit of those who have such little faith and those who are so fearful. We can do what we need to do and, my fellow Americans, if we can't do it, who do you think can? That's what I always finally resort to. If we're unable to

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keep our commitments, who then will keep any commitments. If we're unable to maintain strong national security, who do you think then can afford to maintain them? If we, with a most national product of almost 40% of the entire production of good conservatives throughout the whole world, and that's what we had last year, 40% of the total GNP of the world, with less than 6% of the population. If we can't afford to do what needs to be done, who do you think can afford it? If we can't win the war on poverty in our great rich country, how do you expect to win it in Asia, or a country like India? If we can't provide for education for our people here, what makes you think we can combat ignorance and illiteracy anyplace else. So I say, look, we can do what we need to do. It's all the matter of the will and determination to do it. It isn't so much how big we are. It isn't so much how rich we are. It isn't so much how strong we are. The question is, what do we do with this bigness, what do we do with this strength, what do we do with this wealth? And if we put it to work for the causes and the objectives that we know are right, the objective of a world in which peace can be the environment in which one lives, the objective of a world in which mankind can at least aspire to a better life, the objective of a world in which nations can live together in harmony. If we put our resources to those objectives I think there is some hope that we'll make progress towards their attainment. I doubt that this will be done all in your lifetime or mine, but so what? What we are today was not done in the lifetime of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, but they made some wonderful beginnings. The important thing is for each generation to make its contribution to those beginnings. I think we've made a contribution. I am Washington's

perennial optimist and I continue to be, for several reasons. There are so many pessimists I don't like to get lost in a multitude, number one. Number two, the area of optimism being relatively uninhabited offers great opportunity for rapid advancement. That number two, I am an optimist about our country for one reason that defies all the critics. History is on my side. History is on our side. We've done well. And every day that I pick up the paper and read about the doom that is upon us, or the impending doom, or the disaster that is befalling us or the one that's soon to come to us, all I can say is, "Oh, ye, of little faith." I have a lot of faith. I think that we will overcome these problems, not in a Pollyanna's manner but by our resourcefulness, by our resources, by our knowledge, by our intelligence put to work, by working with others, and by doing what we know we can do because it has to be done. And that's the story of the CIA. You've done what had to be done because you knew it had to be done. You've had some failures. Who hasn't? The story of success is not a continuing dialogue or a continuing serial of fairly successes. It has some setbacks but what's important is the score at the end of the game, or at least from time to time as you take a look at it. I think your score is pretty good. Just don't rest on your laurels. Remember, as old Satchel Page used to say, "If you look back you might find out somebody's gaining on you." So, look ahead, and I think you'll be alright. Thank you and Congratulations.